

Creel Survey

April 11, 2011

Contributed by [Joe Hymer](#)

Salmon/Steelhead

Cowlitz River – No report on angling success. Last week, Tacoma Power recovered 743 winter-run steelhead and four spring Chinook adults during five days of operation at the Cowlitz Salmon Hatchery separator.

During the past week Tacoma Power employees released 57 steelhead and one spring Chinook adult into the Cispus River above the mouth of Yellow Jacket Creek and 20 winter-run steelhead into the Tilton River at Gust Backstrom Park in Morton.

River flows at Mayfield Dam are approximately 11,700 cubic feet per second on Monday, April 11. Water visibility is four feet.

East Fork Lewis from mouth to top boat ramp at Lewisville Park and Washougal River from mouth to Mt. Norway Bridge open to fishing for hatchery steelhead Saturday April 16. Selective gear rules will be in effect; no bait may be used.

Drano Lake – 3 bank anglers had no catch. **Beginning this week, closed to all fishing on Wednesdays through at least May.**

Klickitat River – Light effort and no catch was observed. 1 bank angler had no catch.

Lower Columbia mainstem below Bonneville Dam - Kind of a quiet re-opener on the lower Columbia mainstem – only 400 salmonid boats and 500 bank anglers were observed during the Friday April 8 effort flight count.

From April 8-10 we sampled 1,436 anglers (including 440 boats) with 108 adult and 1 jack chinook and 11 steelhead. Boat anglers averaged an adult Chinook kept/released per every 10.5 rods while bank anglers averaged one per every 32.3 rods based on mainly completed and incomplete trips, respectively.

Eighty-eight (81%) of the adult Chinook caught were kept. 85% were upriver stock based on Visual Stock Identification (VSI). Six (55%) of the steelhead caught were kept.

In comparison to previous years during this period, this year's catch rate is the lowest since at least 2000. Boat anglers averaged an adult chinook kept/released per every 2.9 rods in 2010, 5.9 rods in 2009, 2.5 rods in 2008, 4.1 rods in 2007, 7.2 rods in 2006, 6.4 rods in 2005, 3.0 rods in 2004, 5.6 rods in 2003, 4.9 rods in 2002, and 4.6 rods in 2001.

Through April 10, just 659 adult chinook had been counted at Bonneville Dam. Last year 7,148 fish had been counted at this time. The recent 10-year average is 16,764.

After reaching 400,000 cfs at Bonneville Dam on April 6th, flows are expected to average just under 300,000 cfs for at least the next week and a half. The 10-year average for this time of year is 183,000 cfs.

In addition to high flows, water visibility is also reduced at Bonneville Dam with less than 3 feet each day during the past week.

Bonneville Pool – Light effort and no catch was observed. 1 bank angler had no catch.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching a few spring chinook.

John Day Pool – No salmonid anglers were sampled.

Sturgeon

Lower Columbia below Bonneville Dam – A few legals were caught by boat anglers from Vancouver to Kalama.

The Dalles Pool – Bank anglers are catching some legals. An estimated 87 (29%) of the 300 fish guideline had been taken through March.

John Day Pool – Closed for sturgeon retention through the remainder of the year.

Walleye and Bass

The Dalles Pool – Including fish released, boat anglers averaged 3.2 walleye per rod. Bank anglers are catching some bass.

John Day Pool – Boat anglers averaged just under ½ walleye kept per rod.

Trout

Silver Lake near Castle Rock – The water continues to be fairly cold (50F) for warm water fish. Rainbow trout are being caught however. 5 anglers kept 4 rainbows and released 1.

Siler Mill Pond in Lewis County – Planted with 1,103 catchable size rainbows April 4. No report on angling success.

South Lewis County Park Pond near Toledo – Planted with 2,976 catchable size rainbows April 5. No report on angling success.

Lake Sacajawea in Longview – Planted with 3,010 catchable size rainbows April 4. No report on angling success.

Kress Lake near Kalama – Planted with 2,000 catchable size rainbows April 5. Producing good catches. 13 anglers kept 7 rainbows and released 15 rainbows and 1 brown. Water temp 50F. Cormorants are very active on the lake right now.

Horseshoe Lake in Woodland – Planted with 8,005 browns April 4-6. Little to no effort and no fish caught during creel surveys. 2 anglers had no catch. Water temp 48F.

Merwin Reservoir – Fishing continues to be great. Anglers are catching kokanee near the surface. 42 anglers kept 130 kokanee and released 9 plus 5 rainbows. Water temperature was 45F and there were 31 boat trailers.

Battleground Lake – Planted with 6,800 rainbows averaging over ½ pound each April 6. No report on angling success.

Lacamas Lake near Camas – Planted with 6,864 browns weighing almost ½ pound each April 4. No report on angling success.

Monthly Sturgeon Harvest estimates:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Totals:	%	As of	Guidelines:
Bonneville ¹	1040	587								1,627	81.4%	Mar. 31	2,000
The Dalles	65	6	16							87	29.0%	Mar. 31	300
John Day	187	90	163							440	88.0%	Mar. 31	500
Current month sampled sturgeon kept:													
	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep				
Bonneville ¹	145	71								216		Apr. 10	
The Dalles	11	1	5	2						19		Apr. 10	
John Day	37	10	29	15						91		Apr. 10	
¹ Bonneville Pool closed to sturgeon retention Feb 18.													
Harvest estimates are updated monthly. All in-season estimates are preliminary. Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.													

WDFW Mid-Columbia River mainstem sport sampling summary ¹

April 4 - 10, 2011

The following table is a summary of numbers of fish observed by samplers. Samplers generally observe from 10% - 25% of total harvest.

Sturgeon														
Reservoir	Bank Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Subs	Leg Rel	Leg Kept	Over-size	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Combined Leg Kept
Bonneville Pool						18							198	216
The Dalles Pool	30	19		1	1	5	3	6	9				14	19
John Day Pool	75	35		4		20	24	59	38		6	2	71	91
Total	105	54		5	1	43	27	65	47		6	2	283	326
Salmonids	Bank Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Wild Kept	Wild Rel	Hat Kept	Hat Rel	2011 Cum Leg Kept	Jacks Kept Week Cum
Bonneville Pool													2	2
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead													2	2
The Dalles Pool						74							8	21
Chinook														3
Coho														
Steelhead						10							8	18
John Day Pool						7							8	15
Chinook														
Coho														
Steelhead						7							8	15
Walleye	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool													5	5
The Dalles Pool						3	15	35	11	101			394	397
John Day Pool							13	20		8			179	179
Bass	Bank Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	Boats	Boat Anglers	Rel	Leg Kept			2011 Cum Leg Kept	
Bonneville Pool														
The Dalles Pool						6			2					2
John Day Pool							2	2					2	2

¹ Quantities include both Washington and Oregon samples.

		Sturgeon	Salmonids	Walleye	Bass
Bonneville	Effort (% of 6-week average)	none	none	none	none
	Catch Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	none	none	none	none
The Dalles	Effort (% of 6-week average)	85%	254%	93%	257%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.83	0.01	3.20	0.33
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.03	0.01	2.89	0.33
John Day	Effort (% of 6-week average)	132%	none	34%	171%
	Catch Per Unit Effort	0.63	none	0.40	none
	Harvest Per Unit Effort	0.07	none	0.40	none

Month/Week 4/8-10	Salmonid									Chinook								
	Bank			Kept			Released			Steelhead			Kept			Released		
	<u>Sec.</u>	<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>#</u>	<u>Boat</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Adults</u>	<u>Jacks</u>	<u>Kept</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Other</u>
Bonneville	1	99	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Camas/Washougal	2	17	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	28	67	2	0	1	0	0	0	0
	3									61	140	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vancouver	4	85	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	111	248	17	0	5	0	0	0	1 sublegal stg. rel.
Woodland	5	118	2	0	1	0	1	1	0	39	93	10	0	5	0	0	0	0
Kalama	6	49	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	53	117	14	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cowlitz	7									2	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Longview	8	50	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	101	222	18	1	3	0	4	2	0
Cathlamet	9	31	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
private boats/bank charter	10	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	39	72	12	0	1	0	0	0	0
	10																	
Total		452	9	0	5	0	2	3	0	440	984	79	1	15	0	4	2	1 sublegal stg. rel.

	Sturgeon							# <u>Boats</u>	Boat <u>Anglers</u>	Sublegals <u>Rel.</u>	Legals <u>Rel.</u>	Oversize <u>Rel.</u>	Legals <u>Kept</u>
	<u>Sec.</u>	Bank	Sublegals	Legals	Oversize	Legals							
		<u>Anglers</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Rel.</u>	<u>Kept</u>							
Bonneville	1	3	0	0	0	0							
Camas/Washougal	2						4	7	19	0	0	0	
	3						6	12	23	0	0	0	
Vancouver	4						4	9	6	0	0	2	
Woodland	5	2	0	0	0	0							
Kalama	6						8	20	12	0	0	3	
Cowlitz	7						1	4	0	0	0	0	
Longview	8												
Cathlamet	9												
charter	10												
Cathlamet	10												
Total		5	0	0	0	0	23	52	60	0	0	5	

	Walleye								
	Sec.	Bank	Kept	Rel.		#	Boat	Kept	Rel.
		Anglers				Boats	Anglers		
Bonneville	1								
Camas/Washougal	2								
	3								
Vancouver	4								
Woodland	5								
Kalama	6								
Cowlitz	7								
Longview	8								
Cathlamet	9								
Chinook/Elochoman	10								
Total		0	0	0		0	0	0	0